

Message Text

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AMCONSUL BELFAST

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SUBJ: COSGRAVE ON NON- VIOLENT PURSUIT OF " NATIONAL PRINCIPLE"

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCEPTS FROM SPEECH BY PM COSGRAVE APRIL 9.

2. " THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVT TO PRESERVE THE PEOPLE' S RIGHT TO DECIDE ON WAR OR PEACE , AND THEIR RIGHT NOT TO HAVE WAR THRUST UPON THEM OR UPON THEIR NEIGHBORS BY SELF- APPOINTED GROUPS, HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEMONSTRATED, IN THE CLEAREST MANNER. (PROBABLY A REFERENE TO " CLAUDIA" ARMS SEIZURE.)

3. " PART OF THE NATIONAL COALITION PROGRAM PUT BEFORE THE ELECTORS CONTAINED OUR INTENTION TO PROMOTE A JUST AND PEACEFUL END TO THE SUFFERING IN THE NORTH. NATURALLY, IT IS GRATIFYING THAT OUR FIRST WEEKS OF OFFICE SHOULD HAVE DRAWN PRAISE FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS, SOME OF THEM UNACCUSTOMED TO PRAISING A DUBLIN GOVT." (THIS MAY BE A REFERENCE TO STATEMENT APRIL 6 BY BRIAN WALKER, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW ULSTER MOVEMENT, IN AN ADDRESS TO UN ASSOCIATION IN LONDON.

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WALKER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT NEW GOVT HAD DONE MORE IN FIVE WEEKS FOR STABILITY AND PEACE IN ULSTER THAN HAD FIANNA FAIL IN TEN YEARS.)

4. " AT THE SAME TIME, I MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVT' S ACTIONS ARE NEITHER INFLUENCED NOR DICTATED IN THE SLIGHTEST DEGREE BY THE WISHES OF ANY OTHER GOVT, OR OF INTERESTS WHICH MUST CARRY MUCH OF THE BLAME FOR THE RECENT CHAPTER OF TRAGEDY. WE ARE CONCERNED, AS I SAID IN MY FIRST SPEECH AS TAOISEACH, TO BE REALISTIC IN OUR APPROACH TO THE NORTH; AND WE HOPE TO SHOW THAT REALISM AND STRAIGHTFORWARD DEALING WITH THOSE WHO DIFFER FROM US IN NO WAY INVOLVES THE SLIGHTEST SACRIFICE OF NATIONAL PRINCIPLE .

5. " DAIL EIREANN AND SEANAD EIREANN-- ON THE MOTION OF THIS PARTY WHEN IN OPPOSITION-- HAVE SOLEMNLY AND UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNED VIOLENCE AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING IRISH UNITY; AND TO THIS I WOULD ADD MY OWN HOPE AND INTENTION THAT NOT ONLY ACTUAL VIOLENCE, BUT ALSO ALL BITTER WORDS, RECRIMINATION AND PROPAGANDA WILL DISAPPEAR FROM IRISH RELATIONS. ONLY AN IRELAND UNITED IN GENUINE CONSENT WILL BE AN IRELAND WORTH HAVING; THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE OUR AIM AND OBJECTIVE." END UNCLASSIFIED

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6. COMMENT: BELIEVE ABOVE REMARKS SHOULD BE READ CAREFULLY AND TAKEN LITERALLY. WHILE THEY MERELY EMPHASIZE SRRACEAJKS TRADITIONAL ORIENTATION, HE DOES NOT OFTEN MAKE FORMAL STATEMENT ON THIS OR ANY OTHER TOPIC. WHEN HE DOES SPEAK, HE PHRASES CAREFULLY AND UNDERSTATES THE MESSAGE. HE MAKES CLEAR HERE THAT HE IS CONDEMNING THE TRADITIONAL IRISH APPROACH TO UNITY-- VIOLENCE-- WHILE RETAINING THE GOAL ITSELF. SOME JOURNALISTS WILL PROBABLY SUGGEST, IN COMING MONTHS, THAT HE HAS GIVEN UP THE GOAL AS WELL AS THE METHOD. WE THINK THIS WOULD BE AN ERRONEOUS READING. MOORE

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